



PATENT APPLICATION  
Attorney Docket No.: PD26112  
Client/Matter No.: 68854.0061  
Express Mail No. EL791521475US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Bruning et al.

Serial No.: 09/286,160

Filed: Herewith

For: **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR  
PROVIDING VERY LARGE VIRTUAL  
STORAGE VOLUMES USING  
REDUNDANT ARRAYS OF DISKS**

Art Unit: 2185

Examiner: K. McLean

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cc  
12/13/01  
**RECEIVED**

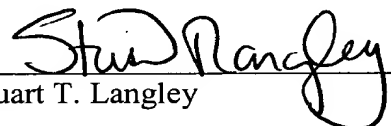
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Technology Center 2100

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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

DEAR SIR:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 10, 2001, please reconsider the above-identified patent application in view of the remarks presented hereinafter.

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-20 remain in this application. Independent claims 1, 6, and 13 call for, among other things, a plurality of back-end controllers coupled to the disk. Independent claims 13 and 18 call for acts of using a plurality of back-end controllers to organize disks into particular claimed